

Serial No.: 09/836,514

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 30 additionally comprising:

contacting the formed fuel material with a quantity of compressed gas, the compressed gas including a quantity of oxidant,

reacting at least a portion of the formed fuel material with at least a portion of the quantity of oxidant to produce heat,

heating a stored quantity of inert gas with at least a portion of the produced heat to form an increased volume of gas and

passing at least a portion of the increased volume of gas into the inflatable safety device to effect the inflation thereof.

Claims 27-29 (canceled)

Serial No.: 09/836,514

30. (previously presented) In a method for inflating an inflatable safety device via an inflator device wherein a fuel material reacts to form gas generation reaction products, the improvement comprising:

heating a mixture containing at least a water-supplying compound and a water-reactive fuel precursor within the inflator device to form the fuel material in situ, wherein the fuel precursor comprises potassium t-butyl carbonate.

31. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 30 wherein the water-supplying compound comprises ammonium nitrate.

Claims 32-35 (canceled)

36. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 30 wherein the water-supplying compound reacts to form water.

37. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 30 wherein the water-supplying compound and the water-reactive fuel precursor are included as contents contained in a first chamber and wherein said heating step

Serial No.: 09/836,514

comprises activating an initiator in discharge communication with the contents to form water.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the formed water reacts with at least a portion of the water-reactive fuel precursor to form a fuel material.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the water-supplying compound and at least a portion of the water-reactive fuel precursor are contained in the first chamber in direct contact.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 37 claim 30 wherein, in an at rest condition, the water-supplying compound is stored segregated from the water-reactive fuel precursor within the first chamber.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the first chamber is defined at least in part by a perforated housing.

Serial No.: 09/836,514

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein a liner within the perforated housing maintains the first chamber contents in discharge proximity with the initiator.

Claims 43-52 (canceled)

53. (previously presented) A method for inflating an inflatable safety device via an inflator device wherein a fuel material reacts to form gas generation reaction products, the method comprising:

reacting a water-supplying compound contained within the inflator device to form water,

contacting a water-reactive fuel precursor contained within the inflator device with at least a portion of the formed water to form the fuel material in situ within the inflator device,

contacting the formed fuel material with a quantity of compressed gas, the compressed gas including a quantity of oxidant,

reacting at least a portion of the formed fuel material with at least a portion of the quantity of oxidant to produce heat,

AAI-14052

Serial No.: 09/836,514

heating a stored quantity of inert gas with at least a portion of the produced heat to form an increased volume of gas and

passing at least a portion of the increased volume of gas into the inflatable safety device to effect the inflation thereof,

wherein the water-reactive fuel precursor comprises potassium t-butyl carbonate.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 claim 53 wherein the water-supplying compound comprises ammonium nitrate.

Claims 55-60 (canceled)

61. (currently amended) The method of claim 57 A method for inflating an inflatable safety device via an inflator device wherein a fuel material reacts to form gas generation reaction products, the method comprising:

reacting a water-supplying compound contained within the inflator device to form water, the water-supplying compound selected from the group consisting of ammonium nitrate and an inorganic compound with stabilized waters of hydration,

AAI-14052

Serial No.: 09/836,514

contacting a water-reactive fuel precursor contained within the inflator device with at least a portion of the formed water to form the fuel material in situ within the inflator device, wherein the water-reactive fuel precursor comprises potassium t-butyl carbonate,

contacting the formed fuel material with a quantity of compressed gas,
the compressed gas including a quantity of oxidant,

reacting at least a portion of the formed fuel material with at least a portion of the quantity of oxidant to produce heat,

heating a stored quantity of inert gas with at least a portion of the produced heat to form an increased volume of gas and

passing at least a portion of the increased volume of gas into the inflatable safety device to effect the inflation thereof.

62. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 57~~ claim 61 wherein the water-supplying compound comprises ammonium nitrate.

Claims 63-66 (canceled)

AAI-14052

Serial No.: 09/836,514

67. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 47~~ claim 53 wherein, in an at rest condition, the water-supplying compound and the water-reactive fuel precursor are stored within a first chamber, and wherein the water-supplying compound is stored segregated from the water-reactive fuel precursor.

68. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 57~~ claim 61 wherein, in an at rest condition, the water-supplying compound and the water-reactive fuel precursor are stored within a first chamber, and wherein the water-supplying compound is stored segregated from the water-reactive fuel precursor.